

## AGENDA ITEM #1

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL WATER RESEARCH PROJECT AUTHORITY

HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE AUTHORITY  
7171 Fenwick Lane, Westminster, California

Friday, March 9, 2001  
9:30 a.m.

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#### **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Janet Hashimoto - *US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX*  
Dennis Dickerson - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region*  
Gerard Thibeault - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region*  
Arthur Coe - *Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region*  
Ing-Yih Cheng - *City of Los Angeles*  
Robert Horvath - *County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County*  
Robert Ghirelli - *Orange County Sanitation District*  
Stan Martinson - *State Water Resources Control Board*

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Stephen Weisberg - *Executive Director*  
Bryan Nece - *Administrative Officer*  
M. James Allen - *Principal Scientist*  
Steven Bay - *Principal Scientist*  
Kenneth Schiff - *Principal Scientist*  
Richard Marsh - *Legal Counsel*  
Emily Briscoe - *Bookkeeper*

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Not Recorded

Commissioner Horvath called the meeting to order at 9:50 am.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 30, 2000**
2. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 8, 2000**
3. **QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED  
DECEMBER 31, 2000**
4. **QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AT DECEMBER 31, 2000**
5. **MINUTES OF CTAG MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 15, 2001**

Upon the motion of Commissioner Martinson and seconded by Commissioner Dickerson the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Executive Director reported on the growing recognition of SCCWRP's work at the national level. As examples, he handed out copies of the recently released Pew Commission report on marine pollution. The report highlighted SCCWRP data to support two of its primary conclusions. Dr. Weisberg next showed EPA's national guidance document on development of marine biocriteria, which included two pages describing the Benthic Response Index that was developed as part of the Bight'94 regional survey.

Dr. Weisberg reported on the success of the recent Metadata Training Session. There were about 45 attendees, most of which were from SCCWRP's member organizations. Attendees received two days of hands-on instruction from specialists that SCCWRP flew in from Louisiana. Dr. Weisberg indicated that SCCWRP staff have received positive feedback about the two training efforts they have undertaken in the last year and are looking to continue these efforts in the future.

The Director finished his report by updating the Commission on the status of the JPA. He indicated that we have now received signed copies from all signatories, except from the City of San Diego which recently received City Council approval and will be forwarding us a signed copy in the next week. The City of Los Angeles indicated that even though we have a signed copy, they still need to proceed with City Council approval, which should be happening soon.

### **7. REPORT ON THE REGIONAL MONITORING PROGRAM**

Dr. Weisberg gave an update on the status of the Regional Monitoring Program. He indicated that since the last Commission meeting, the Chemistry Committee and the Fish Committee made oral presentations to the Steering Committee, which was satisfied with their progress. The Benthic and Water Quality Committees were also making good progress and were scheduled to make presentations in March. The Sediment Toxicity Report was released in January and he anticipates most of the remaining reports will be released this calendar year, leaving sufficient time to plan for the next regional survey in 2003.

### **8. MODEL POTW MONITORING PROGRAM**

Dr. Weisberg indicated that writing has begun on the Model Monitoring Program design report. Twelve chapters are planned for the report, including two introductory chapters, five chapters describing core monitoring elements, and five chapters describing ancillary monitoring elements. SCCWRP has submitted three chapters to CTAG for review and received feedback that staff were proceeding in the right direction with the report. Dr. Weisberg indicated that he has scheduled a presentation about the Model Monitoring Program to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Program Technical Advisory Committee to seek the outside feedback the Commission requested that he obtain. Commissioner Ghirelli asked Dr. Weisberg to make a similar presentation to the Southern California Alliance of POTW's (SCAP), to which he agreed.

### **9. REPORT CARD ON NATIONAL ECOLOGICAL CONDITION**

Dr. Weisberg gave a presentation about the Heinz Center Report Card on National Ecological Condition. The Heinz Center, a non-profit organization focused on environmental and economic issues, has been contracted by several federal agencies to design a Report Card that evaluates the status of six ecosystems. They have established a panel of experts for each ecosystem and Dr. Weisberg is one of 16 members on the coastal panel. The panels are tasked with identifying 18 ecological indicators that summarize condition of the ecosystem, with the proviso that the

indicators must focus on valued end points rather than on sources of stress. Dr. Weisberg proceeded to report on the 18 indicators selected by the coastal panel and indicated that he would like to see SCCWRP work towards ensuring that the information to support these 18 indicators are available for southern California.

#### **10. CONTRACT APPROVAL AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS.**

The Executive Director requested that the Commission endorse the following contracts that have been, or will be offered to the Authority.

1) LA River and Santa Monica Bay Runoff Characterization and Modeling Study

The goal of this project is to develop a fate and transport model to support development of TMDLs for the LA River and the Santa Monica Bay. It is being conducted in collaboration with many stakeholders who are contributing resources to SCCWRP in support of the project. So far the participants are the City of Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, US EPA, Region IX, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the City of Long Beach, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Los Angeles Contaminated Sediment Task Force.

2) University of California, Irvine  
Storm Water Runoff Particle Size (\$19,460)

This study aims to expand our understanding of the role that particles of varying sizes play in mobilizing and sequestering pollutants in storm water flows. SCCWRP is a subcontractor to UCI, who is a subcontractor to UC Davis, who is ultimately receiving funds from Caltrans.

3) Caltrans  
Consulting Service to Review Scientific Studies (\$8,000)

This is a reimbursement of costs to provide scientific review of stormwater runoff studies.

4) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Personnel Agreement (\$115,000)

This is an add-on to our employee exchange grant to support Marianne Yamaguchi in her role as Director of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan starting July 1, 2001.

5) Los Angeles City Department of Public Works  
Atmospheric Deposition (\$50,000)

Aerial deposition is one source that is virtually unmonitored and whose contribution to the overall pollutant load is unknown. This project will conduct measurements to estimate the mass loading of pollutants via aerial deposition to marine waters using a combination of source air-quality measurements, air transport and transformation models, and model verification using microlayer measurements.

6) United States Geological Survey  
Personnel Agreement (\$50,000)

This is an add-on assistance award from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The USGS has been conducting cooperative projects with SCCWRP by locating a USGS employee on-site at SCCWRP to work on projects of mutual interest.

Commissioner Ghirelli moved for approval of these contracts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thibeault. The motion was carried unanimously, with Commissioner Dickerson abstaining on item 1 and 4, Commissioner Hashimoto abstaining on item 4.

Several organizations, particularly State of California agencies, require a resolution by our governing body authorizing the execution of contracts and amendments. The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve Resolution Number 01-01 regarding the following contract that has or will be offered to the Authority.

- 7) State Water Resources Control Board  
Southern California Beach Closure Data System (\$50,000)

The State Water Resource Control Board is required by AB 1946 to produce monthly water quality reports that detail and summarize the linear extent of shoreline that is closed each year due to unsafe water quality conditions. This project will involve working with the county health departments to develop standardized data transfer protocols for addressing AB1946 reporting requirements and then incorporating these data elements into an electronic data transfer system that SCCWRP is constructing for EPA.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Coe, Resolution Number 01-01 was unanimously approved, with Commissioner Martinson abstaining.

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve Resolution Number 01-02 regarding the following of contract that has or will be offered to the Authority.

- 8) State Water Resources Control Board  
San Diego Regional Board  
San Diego Bay TIE (\$230,000)

This project will provide sediment quality assessment and toxicant characterization research to support TMDL development activities in the San Diego Bay.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Cheng, Resolution Number 01-02 was unanimously approved, with Commissioners Martinson and Coe abstaining.

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve Resolution Number 01-03 regarding the following of contract that has or will be offered to the Authority.

- 9) Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Analyze Storm Runoff Samples From LA River  
State Agreement # 00-0191S (\$76,000)

In this project SCCWRP will collect and analyze storm runoff samples associates with various land use types. The pesticides of focus will be diazinon and chlorpyrifos. Data gathered from this project will help assess urban pesticide runoff for usage in pending TMDL in the region. This contract is part of the LA River and Santa Monica Bay Characterization and Modeling project.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Thibeault and seconded by Commissioner Cheng, Resolution Number 01-03 was unanimously approved, with Commissioner Dickerson abstaining.

The Executive Director requested that the Commission approve Resolution Number 01-04 regarding the following of contract that has or will be offered to the Authority.

- 10) State Water Resources Control Board  
Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) in the Southern California Bight (\$70,000)

This project will document the extent of anthropogenic discharges into selected Areas of Special Biological Significance in the California Bight and Channel Islands.

Upon the motion of Commissioner Coe and seconded by Commissioner Hashimoto, Resolution Number 01-04 was unanimously approved, with Commissioner Martinson abstaining.

#### **11. OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Dickerson mentioned that several new members had recently joined the Board. He requested that SCCWRP staff create some literature about SCCWRP that he could use to help inform his new Board members. Executive Director agreed to draft such a brochure for Commission review and further offered to meet with or make presentations to any of the member agency's Governing Boards at anytime.

#### **12. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

There were none.

#### **13. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no requests.

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Horvath adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.

ATTEST:

Bryan Nece  
Secretary